

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods are provided for accessing and retrieving attribute name value pairs from properties data stores, such as properties files. According to one embodiment, attribute values may be associated with properties data store objects. First, 5 an attempt is made to determine a value of an attribute of an object by formulating and submitting a first query against the properties data store based upon a combination of a current context identifier, an object identifier associated with the object, and an attribute identifier associated with the attribute. If the first query is unsuccessful at locating the value, then the value is determined by formulating and submitting a second query against 10 the properties data store based upon a combination of the object identifier and the attribute identifier.